

# THE BENTON COUNTY PIONEER



Vol. 1 No. 4 May, 1956

Single Copies 25¢  
Membership Dues \$3.00 per annum

PUBLISHED BY

THE BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Miss Vera Key, President  
108 So. Third St.  
Rogers, Arkansas

Miss Louise E. Plank, Vice. Pres.  
Bentonville, Arkansas

Mrs. Sabra Holbrook Davis, Vice Pres.  
Siloam Springs, Arkansas

Dale Jefferson, Vice Pres.  
Bentonville, Arkansas

Alvin Seamster (Historian)  
Past President  
Bentonville, Arkansas

H. G. Huhn, Sect.-Treas.  
1204 So. 9th St., Rt. 1  
Rogers, Arkansas

## Front Cover

### "THE GENERAL STORE"

Here was an institution which played a most important part in the lives of all pioneers. Old time stores changed but little even into the early years of the present century. What would our forebears say about running to the store two or more times each day as we often do. In their day a visit to the store was an event to look forward to weeks at a time. The purpose of a trip to the store was frequently to do some trading of eggs, furs, and poultry in many instances.

At the country store or enroute, one met friends from remote sections, picked up news of happenings since the last trip, discussed politics and what not. Going to the store took all day, and for some several days.

The hitchin' posts are all gone, as are the whittlin' benches (for the most part) and other things too have changed. The rather pungent country store odor is no more. But it was not unpleasant. Stocks of all goods in bulk gave off their bit of effervescence, as did the sawdust on the floor - the oil lamps and some customer's pipes. Even the bolts of cloth materials added to the aroma. Factory packaged goods as we know them now were unthought of, though some goods were put up or sacked by the store itself.

Paper bags were at one time something new. Before the era of the "valve bag" the clerk or owner made his own package by twisting a sheet of "store paper" into a cone, pinching in its tip just right to hold. When filled, the top edge and corners were turned down and it held the contents securely.

-- So much for just some of the generalities of the general store. Now we would like to have stories of specific general stores for future numbers of "PIONEER". There must be a lot to tell about the groceries, dry goods, shoes that squeaked, the nails that came, oil for the lamps, bonnets and about the men and women who operated them.

## Meeting at Pea Ridge

Our Pea Ridge members did themselves proud in playing host to the Society on Sunday, April 8, 1956. We convened in the Assembly Room of the Presbyterian Church which was very nicely decorated. The church ladies served refreshments after the close of the meeting. -- Again we say "thanks" to Pea Ridge for the best meeting the Society has had.

Sixty-six members and friends were present. Mrs. Pauline Carnell made a special trip from Pittsburg, Kansas. Mr. Coy Logan, President of the Carroll County Historical Society came over from Berryville, as did the Vice President, B. W. Johnson of Green Forest. Lt. Col. J. Wesley Sampier delivered the address of the day, speaking very appropriately on "the Battle of Pea Ridge" and its effect on the war. This was not only interesting, but very informative to persons less familiar with what took place in this vicinity. Mr. Alvin Seamster and Mr. Roy Broadhurst dealt with additional phases of the engagement.

Mr. Seamster advised of a coming visit to this area by the Arkansas Battle Field Commission, and of the arrangements he has made to escort the group on a tour through the Pea Ridge Battle Ground.

Messrs. Vogt, Broadhurst and Sampier were appointed to investigate the possibility of acquiring at least parts of the area, especially Elkhorn Tavern, so improvement and restoration might proceed at some day soon.

President Miss Vera Key told of a visit to be made by a group of ladies attending the National Convention of Women's Clubs in Kansas City, to this section of Arkansas. They will spend the night in Rogers and tour the Pea Ridge area the following day. Thus the story of Benton County and of Pea Ridge will be carried by some prominent ladies to all sections of the U.S.A.

Pea Ridge Battle Ground is a project in which all in Benton County should take an interest. It is important that we act at once to install proper markers and tablets. We may not be able to afford stone, bronze or other expensive markers, but we feel some of you can come up with a good idea

on how this can be done economically yet effectively. We should also lay out the walks and paths to the points of interest for tourists and visitors.

"WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY"

Is there a will? Is there a way? Let's not delay any longer. Let's do some -- thing. Please take note, Rogers, Gentry, Bentonville, Siloam Springs, Gravette, Decatur, Sulphur Springs -- Pea Ridge is ready!

## Annual Meeting of Arkansas Historical Society

Members of the Benton County Historical Society who attended the annual meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association, at Harrison on May 4 and 5, were amply repaid with a most interesting and informative program. The talks and papers read and explained, held the attention constantly. Mr. William Ritchie covered most of the life activity of Samuel C. Roane, who was very active in the affairs of early Arkansas.

Ralph Rea told the story of the Mountain Meadows Massacre - a true stranger - than fiction tale.

At the luncheon on Friday, J. N. Heishell told of his collection of Arkansasiana. His collection is very interesting to historians, and particularly so to Arkansas members of historical groups. Col. J. W. Sampier of Rogers presided at the luncheon.

Friday afternoon association members toured Cavern Springs and Marbel Falls, and were entertained with a tea and open house at the home of Dr. and Mrs. G. Arlen Robinson. Their home, "Robin Point" and its location is interesting, and if Historical Association members or members of Benton County Historical Society desire to see it, Dr. and Mrs. Robinson have so graciously offered to show them around.

Dr. Edward Younger, of the University of Virginia, outlined the life of Wilson at the annual dinner, concluding his present-

ation at the luncheon on Saturday.

A paper by W. A. Moffet, of Hendrix College read at the Saturday morning session, described early transportation in Arkansas. This was followed by a talk on the life of Judge David Walker by Professor W.J. Lemke of the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Horace Adams, of Arkansas Teacher's College, Conway, was elected President of the Arkansas Historical Society for the coming year.

*New Members*

Since the last issue of the PIONEER, the following persons have been added to our membership enrollment:

- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Allen, Van Nuys, Calif.
- Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bell, Pea Ridge, Ark.
- Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Brashear, Okla. City
- Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Burgess, Chicago, Ill.
- Mr. and Mrs. Audie Buttry, Pea Ridge, Ark.
- Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Felker, Rogers, Ark.
- Mrs. F. L. Proctor, Forrest City, Arkansas
- Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Fry, Gravette, Ark.
- Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Geeseka, Garfield, Ark.
- \*Mr. and Mrs. Marcus L. Gould, Rogers, Ark.
- Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hall, Pea Ridge, Ark.
- Mrs. S. Hollister Jackson, Rogers, Ark.
- Miss Clara B. Kennan, Little Rock, Ark.
- Mrs. Blanche McBride, LaHabra, California
- Mr. and Mrs. Fred McKinney, Pea Ridge, Ark.
- Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Miller, Rogers, Arkansas
- Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Oakley, Terrill, Texas
- Miss Winifred Parkyn, Rogers, Arkansas
- Miss Eva Patterson, Pea Ridge, Arkansas
- Mr. Harry Pecklesma, Rogers, Arkansas
- Mr. and Mrs. Will Plank, Marlboro, N. Y.
- Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Richardson, Pea Ridge
- Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Strode, Rogers, Arkans.
- Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Suter, Bentonville, Ark
- Mr. and Mrs. Roy Taylor, Pea Ridge, Ark.
- Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Teter, Dallas, Texas
- Mrs. W. W. Vaught, Fayetteville, Arkansas
- Mr. and Mrs. Max Walker, Pea Ridge, Ark.
- Mr. Wythe Walker, New York City, New York
- Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Webb, Pea Ridge, Ark.
- Mr. and Mrs. Finis Wood, Pea Ridge, Ark.

\* Designates Honorary Life Members.

This represents a good increase in membership. We hope that in the months to come the record of increase will continue. Tell a friend what we are doing and invite him to join.

*In Memoriam*

On March 7, 1956 Mrs. H. Y. Tribble of Rogers, Arkansas, Honorary Life Member passed on at the age of 93. We extend our sympathy to her family.

*Land Grant Homes*

PIONEER would like the names of families in Benton County who still live on land acquired by their people by land grant. We mentioned the Marcus Gould family, and there are many others. Please give their names and addresses.

*Post Offices & Postmasters 1856*

Benton County:

- Twin Springs - - - - - John Givens
- Spavinaw - - - - - A. Whinney
- Roller's Ridge - - - - - J. S. Bavless
- Osage Mills - - - - - John Smith
- Maysville - - - - - R. D. Blackstone
- Linn Spring Hill - - - - -
- Jennings Ferry - - - - - Abner Jennings
- Rico - - - - - A. R. Johnstone
- Harmony Springs - - - - - Jos. E. Spencer
- Equality - - - - - J. R. Rice
- - - - - T. M. Duckworth
- Double Spring - - - - - William P. Rich
- Bloomington - - - - - G. W. Holcomb e
- Bentonville - - - - - Wm. F. Woolsey
- Apple Orchard - - - - - Jos. M. Hoge

From Mitchells Atlas 1865.

# LT. COLONEL PAUL LIBGETT ANDERSON

The Benton County Historical Society lost one of its valuable charter members, on November 30, 1955, when death claimed Paul L. Anderson, who had been an active member from the first meeting. He drafted the by-laws and encouraged its efforts when only a handful of members attended. He was a man of great love for his country, his native state, and his home town. He had lived a very colorful active life, flying to most of the important cities of the world during his war years. He was an artist at heart and always returned home with some object of beauty.

Paul Anderson was born at the Hazel Glen Farm on October 18, 1904, in Benton County, about a mile South of Vaughn. He was the son of William Allen and Sally Jones Anderson. His maternal grandfather was Sam Jones, a veteran of the Mexican War. Colonel Anderson came of a long line of Army men. He was the great-grandson of Col. Hugh A. Anderson, veteran of the War of 1812, who was himself the son of Capt. William Anderson, famed Indian fighter and Revolutionary War veteran. His grandfather, Oliver Irving Anderson, served in the Confederate Army in the war between the states. His great-grandmother, Mary Allen Anderson, was a descendant of Capt. Hugh Allen, who was killed in the battle of Polk Pleasant, during the Revolutionary War.

Paul Anderson's ancestors came to Benton County, Arkansas, from Alabama in 1832. They established a home at Hazel Glen Farm. Four generations of the family are buried in the family cemetery at Vaughn.

Mr. Anderson was admitted to the bar at the age of 21; practiced law in Rogers for six years; was city attorney (1926-1932); attorney for Federal Land Bank, St. Louis, Mo. (1933-1937); Counsel for Bank of Cooperatives, St. Louis, Mo. (1938-1940). He was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Arkansas; U.S. District Court; United States Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of the United States. He was a member of the Benton County Bar Association, Bar Association of Arkansas, Judicature Society and American Bar Association.

He was a member of the Reserve Officers Corps, (Judge Advocate General Corps), entered active duty in St. Louis as a Second Lieutenant on March 21, 1941.

He was a witness in the Nurnberg trials and sat at many other important cases while in Europe. He was a veteran of World War II, with 29 months overseas in the British Isles, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany; and a veteran of the Korean campaign, with 21 months overseas in the Mariana-Bonins Islands, the Ryukyus Islands and Korea. He was honorably retired from military service as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1952 for disabilities incurred in Korea. Among several awards for outstanding service to his country Col. Anderson, while a member of the staff of Lt. Gen. Edward M. Almond, commander of the Tenth Corps in Korea, was awarded the Legion of Merit, and the Air Medal. He was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal in the European campaign.

Paul Anderson was a member of the Presbyterian Church, a 32nd degree Mason, a Shriner, and a Son of the American Revolution. He was married to Peggy (Ida Flossie) Moody, August 27th, 1926. Peggy is also a member of one of Benton County's pioneer families. Her maternal grandfather was Alexander Nail, one of the heroes of the Battle of Pea Ridge.

Paul will be greatly missed by the Benton County Historical Society.

# COMMUNIST COLONY IN BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS BY CLIFFORD FRY

It is claimed that from Colonial times until the Civil War at least 75 communistic experiments were tried in the United States, and that not one succeeded as such.

One of these was THE MARMONIAL VEGETARIAN SOCIETY which was established in the northeast part of Benton County, Arkansas in 1860. The story of this organization is found in a volume entitled "A History of Northwest Arkansas" which was published in Chicago, Illinois in 1889, by the Goodspeed Publishing Company.

The incorporators were listed as follows: A. D. Tenney, Rachel S. Tenney, William Tenney, J. D. Potter, Irena Potter, John Murphy, Milton Vale, Mercy G. Vale, John M. Adams, Henry E. Dewey, Sarah J. Denney, Benjamin F. Stites, Charles G. Foster, Edna M. Foster, Deborah Brackett, Phebe A. Rogers and Angeline A. Dunn.

A group purchased the lands shown on the accompanying map and described as follows: The Southwest Quarter and the West Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 12, the Northeast Quarter and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 13; Township 20 North of Range 34 West; and the Southeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Section 23, Township 21 North, Range 34 West totaling 520 acres.

Promptly, after securing the lands, the Society took possession and began improving it by erecting the following described buildings: A large three story building containing from 80 to 90 rooms for a home and hospital, a large bath house, machine shop, spring house over the spring, machine shop, blacksmith shop, print shop, saw and grist mill and a building for a general store. Water, piped from the spring, was piped to every room in the home-hospital. A large area of the land was placed in cultivation and everything appeared prosperous.

For about a year they published a paper called "THE THEOCRAT" in which they advocated the theory of living in societies, and all things in common and in subsisting on a purely vegetable diet, which they were practicing.

They had all things in common. All married persons joining the Society, were required to renounce their marriage contracts and to contribute to the Society all their property, allowing no individual ownership. While marriage was not recognized, members were allowed to choose their mates by lot and it was understood that children born of members were to be considered the offsprings of the Society rather than of the natural parents.

They lived exclusively to themselves in a social way, and had but little to do with the outside world, except in a commercial capacity. The men dressed in Quaker attire and women wore "bloomers".

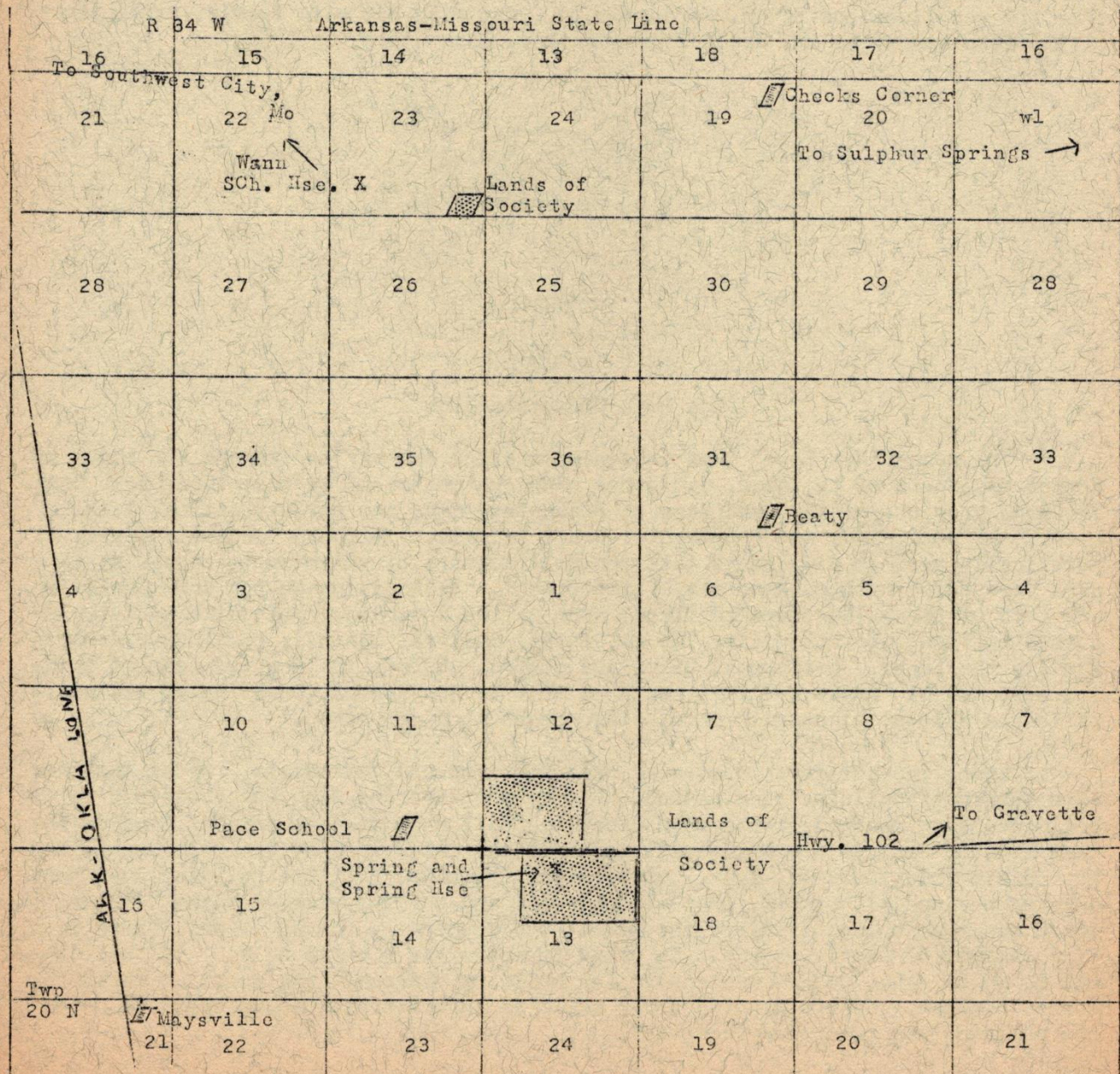
According to the World Book "Communism is based on the theory that the individual should not hold property as his own, that the means of production are rightly held as a common trust, and that the profits arising from all labor should be devoted to the common good". So this was definitely a communistic organization.

The History says that during the Civil War "the armies" took possession of the buildings. This was probably the Confederates who established Camp Walker in the near vicinity and was under the command of Brigadier General N. B. Pearce. Here the Cherokee general, Stand Watie, trained his Indian troops which he later led in the Battle of Pea Ridge. Products of the mill of the Society became the bread of the soldiers of the camp.

About the time of the close of the Civil War all of the buildings were burn-

ed. The lands of the Society and all of the remaining belongings were sold and the proceeds divided among its members and they went their various ways. Henry E. Dewey for a time thereafter operated a grist mill on Honey Creek not far from the present Wann School House site. John Murphy later resided near Low Gap in Newton County, Arkansas and some of his relatives still live in that area.

This was in all probability the location of the buildings of the Society, for it is the only spring of any size to be found on any of the lands. This is on the 160 acre tract owned by Drex Broom of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and farmed by Fred and Scott Evans, who also own and farm the 160 acres due north of the Broom land. Other owners included Mr. and Mr. Ralph Ewing (the 40 acres near the Wann school site), Mr. and Mrs. Arvel Lock, Busse Bros., and Mr. and Mrs. Mann Young.



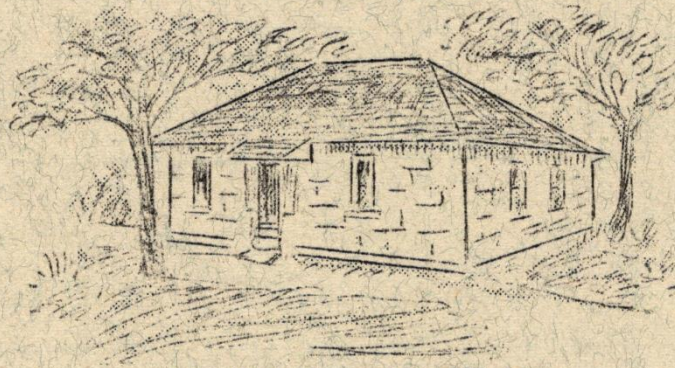
MAP OF NORTHWEST SECTION OF BENTON COUNTY

Scale 1 in. - 2 miles

# The New Hope Community

RECOLLECTIONS  
OF  
MARCUS GOULD

Driving south from Rogers on Highway 71 in a very few minutes we pass an unpretentious frame building on the right, opposite the Bell Motel, the new home of the New Hope Community Club. (See picture below). The name itself, "New Hope", is intriguing. A recent inquiry brought out some very interesting history, largely from the recollections of Mr. Marcus Gould, who with his wife Bessie, still lives on the farm bought by Mr. Gould's grandfather, John Gould, in 1858.



New Hope Community Club

The name "New Hope" was chosen soon after the war to express the hopes of former residents of the area, and other pioneers who chose to make their home here. The name grew out of the hard days of reconstruction, the poverty, taxes, lack of money, of poor roads and shortage of draft animals. With the economic status at practically zero it did indeed take the full measure of optimism to choose as the name "New Hope" rather than, say, "Last Ditch". In addition to the John Goulds we are told of other "New Hope" settlers, such as the Rev. Rice, Methodist minister, - Joshua Hoffman, the McDaniels, Tabers, Pitts, Rollers, McKines, the Turner Johnson family, the Locks, Latimores, Sikes and others. Before the war the nearest trading post was at "Cross Hollows" south of what is now Rogers, boasting of its post-office, a saloon, blacksmith shop, stage coach stop and store.

Among the settlers were some Presbyterians and Methodists, whose thoughts soon turned to <sup>the</sup> building of a church. Led by the Reverend Rice the decision to build was soon reached, whereupon Granville Roller donated an acre of land on the east side of what is now Highway 71 north of the cross road at the Bell Court. Non-Methodists volunteered to help, contending, however, that the building must not only be a place of worship, but also a school and meeting place for the "Grange", which was then being organized throughout the country -- and so it was. Here is a fine example of people working in unity to solve the general need. The building was 24 x 34. What money was needed for building material was supplied mostly by Joshua Hoffman. Others donated their skill as carpenters, helpers, etc. and soon the building was ready for occupancy.

People came many weary miles on foot or by wagon for the dedication. The joyous shouting and singing put "New Hope" into souls which otherwise might have despaired. "Uncle" Joshua Hoffman, a large, somewhat portly white haired man, walked up and down the aisle clapping his hands saying, "Thank God for this night". Camp meetings were later conducted regularly in a brush arbor across the road.



The community of New Hope, for many years, had one of the best Sunday Schools in Benton County. In 1884 it was host to the Sunday School Convention for all of Benton County.

The Benton County Sunday School Picnic was held in New Hope in 1895, when the main attraction was the military band of Bentonville, with Alex Black, son of the County Clerk, as band master. They traveled in a band wagon drawn by four spirited horses. Wagons and buggies with children and grownups headed for New Hope from all directions.

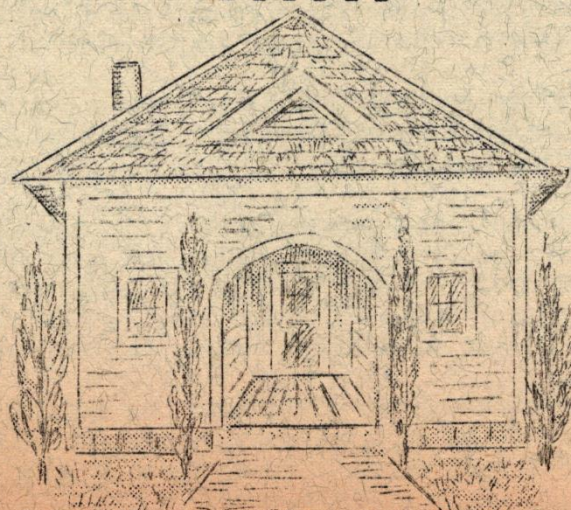
A school district was created here in 1883, the first free public school in the area, with Robert Carson, father of the late R. R. Carson of Rogers, as teacher. This school was for many years one of the best in the country. Classes were held in the original building until 1918, when the present building (now the Bell Cafe) was erected. In 1946 this district was consolidated with Rogers, where the children of this area now attend.

The years of 1880 and 1881 brought the railroad and the founding of Rogers. People moved to the new town and soon the Methodist church also went to Rogers and left the building to become the public school.

In 1902 a Presbyterian minister held a revival in this old building and a church was organized, and a building decided on. Three men bought one-half acre across the road to the southwest (now opposite Bell Motel) and built the present building. The Church and Sunday School with over 100 in attendance flourished until after World War I, when automobiles and good roads brought on reduced attendance. So, in 1938 the building was given to the New Hope Community Club and has since been used for community gatherings, quilting and sewing parties and neighborhood suppers. Mrs. Fred Russell is currently president and Mrs. E. J. Stewart is secretary.

While times have changed greatly and distances have been annihilated during the years, the "New Hope" spirit of that earlier day still lives today in the people who make their homes in the area, although some may have come in more recent years from the south or north, east or west. We trust the Club will have a suitable marker erected to preserve the memory of those of that earlier day who had so little - yet did so much.

- - - - As told to H. G. Huhn, by Marcus Gould - - - -



First free public school building, established in 1883, was located on site now occupied by Bell Cafe.

# The APPLEGATE DRUG STORE



This drug store on First Street in Rogers, Arkansas, was opened in 1907 in a new building a few doors from its original location, where the business was started in 1881, by "J. E." Applegate.

The fixtures installed in 1907 were then, and still are the finest any store, anywhere could boast of. Here is an example of the endurance of quality. The interior and the new building were designed by Matthews and Clark, Architects, of Rogers and St. Louis. Mr. Albert O. Clark was the Rogers partner.

Solid mahogany was used throughout, with much fine plate glass for cases and mirrors.

The fixtures were built by the Huck Mfg. Co. of Quincy, Ill. at a cost of \$2192 subject to a two percent cash discount, which incidentally was taken. The price also included the expense of a man from Quincy, who came to Rogers to superintend the installation. That the workmanship was the best in cabinet making is clearly evident, after almost 50 years of use.

To the left on entering the store was a jewelers work case fully equipped with the many necessary small drawers, and an optical counter. These are no longer in the store. Next was, and still is, a beautiful jewelers wall case, with a center recess holding a large mirror. Each side has a glazed front of beveled plate glass, opening through the case top. There are three matching floor show cases, with plate glass fronts, sides, and tops, having marble bases, as have all the other similar cases.

Next adjoining the jewelers case is a wall "Tincture" case, fully equipped with druggist's drawers below the ledge level. Complimenting this fixture are two merchandise cases, a lower wrapping case, another long case, and a cashier's desk. A cross partition frames off the prescription room, which holds a case to the South, one to the North, and another across the store to the rear of the partition.

To the front of the store on the right, there was a customers' seat of mahogany made with decorative panels and high side posts. This seat is no longer used, but is still in possession of the Applegate's.

Next we see a soda fountain and serving bar. The fountain and bar were not included in the fixture purchased from Quincy, Ill., but came from Boston. Beyond the fountain there is a patent medicine wall case 54 ft. long, glazed with a center mirrored recess and drawer space below the ledge line. This case is fronted with a cigar case, two floor cases, two merchandise cases, and a wrapping case.

A beautiful pendulum clock slowly ticks away on the South wall, and has for fifty years, but time has left no mark on the fixtures, which seem to grow more mellow as the years pass by. A safe in the rear is in keeping with the general plan.

The present store was later owned by Dr. J. E. Applegate's son, Charles, and now by his grandson, John. Charles is no longer active in the store. He and Mrs. Applegate spend much time in travel and with photography; in lecture work, and in buying many fine items of china or glass for the jewelers wall case.

"J. E." had six sons, Walter, Charles, John, Timothy, Harold, Fred, and two daughters, Edgatha, and Anabell.

In later years a drug store in Bentonville was purchased, also one in Springdale. The latter was sold when Timothy died. The Corner Drug Store, also in Rogers, was started by Harold, and is now owned and operated by Fred.

\*\*\*\*\*

---

## SAMUEL DEE WOODS *writes* - - -

We quote some very interesting paragraphs from a letter written April 9, 1956, by Mr. Woods to Miss Plank.

"Dear Louise:

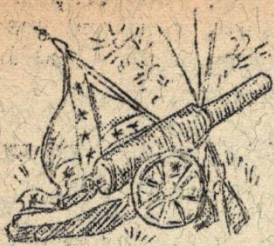
It was nice to see you, the mother and sister at Pea Ridge yesterday. That was a good meeting, and since we lived there from 1890 to 1894, it made it more interesting to me. I used to attend reunions at Elk Horn Tavern during those years. -----

So many things of interest came to my mind yesterday during the meeting. Being 78 years of age last Oct. 29th, I have been told many things of interest in the past by our grandfather, uncle, and other old folks of Southwest Missouri and Northwest Arkansas. In fact my great grandfather and great grandmother, Samuel and Anna Woods were buried on the old home place, which is adjoining the place where Brice Woods lives now. Our father, Brice's father, and their brother and several sisters were born there, and eight of us children were born on a portion of this section. One of our brothers and one of our sisters were born in Pea Ridge, the last two, in 1891 and 1893. -----

Raphiel W. Hausard, my mother's brother, was a photographer in Bentonville for years back in the 1870's, to the late 90's, when he passed on. People all over Northwest Arkansas, East Oklahome, and Southwest Missouri have photos made by him, as he was known as the best photographer West of the Mississippi River at that time. He and his brother, Dr. E. P. Hausard were captains in the war of 1861. When the war was over, they met at Shreveport, Louisiana, and came home together. There is a lot of history back of them. Their father, Samuel H. Hausard was killed during the war, on the Cedar and Polk County line in Missouri, and their home was burned. Then most of the family came to Benton County, Arkansas.

Yours truly,

Samuel Dee Woods  
Sulphur Springs, Ark."



# OUR TRIP TO PEA RIDGE BATTLEFIELD AND ELK HORN TAVERN



By Alvin Seamster

On the morning of March 6th, 1862, Gen. Sigel, whose headquarters were in the Eagle Hotel in Bentonville, learning that the Confederate troops were moving in from Elm Springs and McKissick Springs, ordered Gen. Asboth and Col. Osterhaus, with the main part of the Third and Fourth Divisions, to leave Bentonville and Join Gen. Curtis at his camp above Brightwater, on Sugar Creek. Gen. Sigel remained in Bentonville with about 600 troops and a battery of six pieces to bring up the rear and delay the Confederates.

As soon as the Confederate advance neared Bentonville, Gen. Sigel left with his troops in a Northeasterly direction toward Sugar Creek. The Confederates overtook Gen. Sigel at Sugar Creek, where Sigel set up his artillery and a skirmish ensued, then at several other places up the creek, the same performance occurred, until Sigel joined the forces of Gen. Curtis.

There are still evidences of the skirmishes along the creek where minie balls and cannon balls have been found, even in recent years. Gen. Curtis and his forces had dug trenches and erected barriers on the North side of Sugar Creek, in anticipation of the Confederates approaching him over the old wire road from the South, but the main force of the Confederates had arrived by way of Elm Springs through Bentonville.

Van Dorn's troops with Gen. Price in the lead, McCulloch next, then Gen. Albert Pike's Brigade in the rear, had made a forced march from Fayetteville, Elm Springs and McKissick Springs along the Bentonville and Keytsville road, taking the left hand road on Sugar Creek, marching around Elkhorn Mountain to the North and halted about two miles North of Elkhorn Tavern.

About 10:00 o'clock on the morning of the 7th, Gen. McCulloch countermarched around the Southwest end of the mountain, facing toward Leetown.

Gen. Curtis, learning the Confederates had marched wround him had reformed his lines facing them to the North and finding Van Dorn and Price at the East end of the mountain and McCulloch at the West, divided his army to face each division.

The first battle near Leetown started with Gen. McCulloch making an attack on Osterhaus and Davis, but about two o'clock, while McCulloch was leading the charge, he was killed, leaving Gen. McIntosh in charge, who a short time later was killed while leading the troops. In the next charge by Osterhaus and Davis, Hebert and several of his officers were captured by the 36th, Illinois, under Capt. Smith.

Gen. Pike, seeing how the Confederates were overwhelmed after the death of their leaders tried to take his command to Price and Van Dorn, but the Indians, under Drew, began a retreat West through Bentonville.

Gen. Green had been left with the wagon train of over 200 wagons, and reaching from South of Bentonville to Sugar Creek, with 5000 troops to guard it.

About 2:00 o'clock on the 8th, after a fierce battle, the Confederates began a retreat on the road to Huntsville and back through Bentonville. They were out of supplies and the Federals were between them and their supply train.

Of the 167 battles and skirmishes in Arkansas, the battle of Pea Ridge is listed by all historians as being the most significant and the heaviest west of the Mississippi River. It opened the way for Federal troops to occupy SW Mo. and NW Arkansas.

The next biggest battle which could have driven the Federals out of the same territory, had it been successful, was the battle of Prairie Grove, on the 7th of Dec. 1862. This was definitely the second biggest battle in Arkansas.

Only four other states had a greater number of battles and skirmishes than Arkansas, Virginia with 519; Tenn. 298; Missouri with 186. Kentucky had 138, Louisiana 118, and Georgia 108. None of the other states had as many as 100. There were 2261 engagements in the entire war.

After more than ninety years we are still locating muster rolls, individual reports, pictures, and are printing for future generations the many historical documents we are finding -- something that should have been done many years ago as many of the things we wanted have been lost.

Let us strive to do as much as is possible during our time to preserve what is left, as we have had the benefit of interviewing many of the participants of all the battles. The next generation will not have that benefit.

(Editor's Note: The above was prepared by Mr. Seamster and presented to the Arkansas Battlefield Commission on April 18, 1956, while host to the Commission of which he is a member. Most of the day was spent in a tour of the area.)

\*\*\*\*\*

-----  
THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT THE EARLY SETTLERS

By Alvin Seamster

Dr. Nicholas Spring, with his brothers, Col. John and William, with their brother-in-law John Smith came to Bentonville in the early 1830's. Dr. Nicholas Spring had the first store in Bentonville and John Smith started a store in Osage, while this was still the Territory of Arkansas.

Samuel P. and William Harvey Woods came to Bentonville in 1832, settling just East of town. The next year their father, Samuel Woods, and several of the Maxwell families moved here from Tennessee. They were all related.

In 1828, Col. James McKissick, one of the Commissioners of the five civilized tribes of Indians, passed through Northwest Arkansas and was so impressed, that in a few years he returned to Tennessee and brought his mother and his two brothers, Joseph and David McKissick. Col. James McKissick first settled at Fayetteville, then in 1838, moved to McKissick Springs, where Centerton is now located.

When the McKissick's moved here they were accompanied by Major Ephriam Dickson, Robert, Joseph and Ezekiel, all brothers and their nephew, Major John Bennett Dickson; also by Enoch Trott, who located at Brightwater and started a store.

The Dicksons, McKissicks, Springs, Smiths and Trotts had been neighbors in North Carolina before moving to Tennessee -- 1803 to 1808.

In 1855 some of the people who traded at Osage were Sherwood Tallant, Mr. Rough-ton, Mr. Weatherly, W.L. Henry, and Mr. Hoback - they all bought groceries from John Smith.

In May 1857, Wm. P. Bond bought a bill of groceries from John Smith, at Osage, including 3 lbs. of licorice, 50¢ per lb., two coats for \$3.00, 1 fine comb 20¢, two caps, 25¢ each, and 9 yards of print, \$1.35. John Smith notified Mr. Bond by letter that he would like to have his entire bill paid by August 15, as he was going East to buy goods and would need every dollar he could collect.

On Jan. 23, 1853, Thomas H. Allison sold F. B. Woods a coffin for G. W. Woods, cost, \$6.00.

On Dec. 2, 1851, B. F. Woods paid his board bill to Jane Adams, 48 weeks at 50¢ per week.

*More About  
How Towns In Benton County  
Received Their Names*

CAVE SPRINGS was of course named for the spring, but not at first. The Patishalls, Strouds, Allens and Cannons settled in and near the town known by that name. A long extinct postoffice there was called Cannon. It was operated by Mr. Cannon in his home and mail was dispatched by horseback to nearby settlers. One of the first water mills in the county was built there by George Robbins, later operated by Elijah Allen who came from Tennessee. Later J. W. Stroud owned it, father of H. L. Stroud the merchant of Rogers. John Sandusky was proprietor of one of the first stores. The first school was of log, and called by the pupils "Stick in the Mud", probably because its chimney was made of mud and sticks. Other early settlers in the vicinity were the Holland, Smiley, Bright, Murdock, Jones and McClure families. During the Civil War several men hid in the Cave and their women folk smuggled food to them in the dark of night and early dawn, to escape from soldiers or bushwhackers.

NEBO, an early settlement about a mile West of the present town of Gravette, was absorbed by the latter when the Kansas City Southern Railway was built. The settlement, with its Post Office, grew around the spring, and the distillery there was a noted one. At one time Nebo boasted of a G.A.R. encampment and several business houses. But the distillery has long since gone and its timbers used for firewood, or in buildings built on the location. Gravette's annual picnic, held for years in August, took place in the grove to the North.

SPRINGTOWN was settled in 1841, and farms in the neighborhood were raided by marauding Indians who came across Indian Territory. There was some stealing of hogs, etc., but otherwise little damage was done. These had been taken in convoys across Benton County from Tennessee in 1837. Manning Richardson's store was established in Springtown. In 1868 when a postoffice was established, the settlement was called Springtown from the big spring. This spring also drew the settlers. In 1850 Robert Duckworth, Matt Vaughan, Isaac and Hastings Dial, Perminter Morgan, Wiley Jones and Maj. Jack Russell, all from Georgia, settled there. Also Robt. Hall, and sons, Jesse and Young; Rolly Hood, Jos. Thomas and sons, Hiram Thomson and sons John and Sanford, settled on Flint Creek farther West.

Benjamin and Jefferson Hubbard were early settlers on the Osage. Phineas Holmes and John Kincheloe settled on the creek about five miles Southwest of Bentonville. Mr. Kincheloe was prominent in the organization of the county and a justice of peace for many years. In 1839 Richard Burgess and family including W. W. Burgess, located at Lick Branch near Osage. From Bedford County, Tenn., came Joseph Neal, also Chas. Neal, settling on Brush Creek, as did Archer and Samuel Wilson in 1840. Walter Thornberry and son-in-law David Brickey of Virginia came in 1839. John Edwards from Tennessee settled on Lick Branch. Hugh A. Dinsmore brought his family from Kentucky and settled nine miles South of Bentonville, where he kept a deer park, near his fine spring. Mr. Anderson, a descendant, owns the fine farm today.

ELDORADO, once an important hamlet on the banks of the Spavinaw, Southwest of Gravette, was established in 1881. It flourished for some years, won considerable fame as a resort, and was finally completely washed away when the Spavinaw Creek went on a rampage. El Dorado also had a post office.

## SULPHUR SPRINGS

dates its birth from the day that Charles H. Hibler, promoter, and others laid out the townsite in 1885 anticipating the coming of the railroad, which for many years had its terminus there. The town naturally took its name from the white and black sulphur and other famous springs in the center of the town. As a resort it was long one of the most thriving spots in the county, and has had its boom and periods of depressions. When the week end excursions were later run by the railroad from Kansas City to Sulphur Springs, the beautiful old Hibler Hotel, built of native stone on the hill, was filled to capacity on week ends. The hotel burned many years ago, and was rebuilt into the John Brown Schools. The country around attracted some of the first settlers in the county. William Wells located a mile South of the town in 1848. Felix G. Lindsey of Kentucky and Missouri, settled with his family three miles West of there in 1833. He was grandfather of Attorney Vol T. Lindsey of Bentonville.

(From Benton County Record & Democrat, 1930)

## INDIAN STORIES

The druggist having noticed that a certain Indian bought a large bottle of cough syrup on his weekly visits to town remarked that his family really must have long lasting colds. "No" was the answer "Me likum syrup on pancakes."

And then there was the old Indian guide who always seemed able to correctly predict the weather. But one day my friend who asked what tomorrow would be like was shocked with this answer, "Me don't know - radio broke."

The banker was finally able to explain "Security" to Chief White Feather, who pledged his horses for a \$3000 loan. When the note was paid the chief admitted a nice profit on his deal, so the banker suggested depositing it in the

bank. Chief White Feather then asked, "How many horses you got?"

(Just fiction, of course, but some of our readers may be able to supply stories of Indians of Benton County.)

## DELICACIES

About a month ago when the Tom Hall's were here, like always, they brought us some delicacies - this time a can of "plain boiled" quail eggs; also a can of fried grasshoppers. Both are imports from Japan. We will have no trouble with the quail eggs, but as to the fried grasshoppers, shall we invite friends in, or go fishing? Let's hear from some of our readers. What were some of the delicacies of Arkansas pioneers?

H.G.H.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held in July on the first or second Tuesday, as will be decided by the directors, who would furthermore like invitations as to where to meet. We have not met in Rogers for some time. Would that be satisfactory?

## LOCAL GROUP MEETINGS

Local groups are again urged to meet informally to discuss local affairs, report on places of interest, arrange markers, and material for future "Pioneers". Local groups can do much that we do not have time for in our quarterly meetings. Let's hear from some of our local groups.

## BACK NUMBERS

Back numbers of the Pioneer are still available in limited number and may be had at a cost of 25¢ per copy from the secretary.

REVISED BY LAWS OF THE  
BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Adopted April 8, 1956

ARTICLE I.

1. The society shall have a board of directors of eight (8) who shall be regular members in good standing and be elected to office as follows:

Three (3) shall be elected at an annual meeting and serve a term of two (2) years. Present directors shall serve the remainder of the term to which they were elected at the first annual meeting in October, 1954.

Four shall consist of a president; a first, second and third vice-president. They shall serve as members of the Board of Directors concurrently with their term of office. Their term of office shall be for one (1) year; election to be held at the annual meeting. One member of the board shall be the immediate past-president of the society.

2. The society shall have a secretary-treasurer who shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of One (1) year.

3. Any vacancies shall be filled by the president after obtaining approval of a majority of the Board members. Such appointments shall be for the unexpired portion of the term of office.

4. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the first Tuesday in October, at such time and place as may be decided upon by the membership at a previous meeting.

5. The regular meeting of the society shall be held quarterly in January, April, July and October (annual) on the first or second Tuesday as may be decided by the membership at a previous meeting or by the board of directors.

6. The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President or in his absence by the ranking vice-president or by two (2) members of the board, other than the president.

7. Special meetings of the society may be called by the president; or by two board members, or by four (4) regular members.

8. Local meetings in the various sections of Benton County are suggested and encouraged, these to be held at such times and places as those interested may decide on.

9. A quorum at any meeting of the board shall consist of a majority (50% or more) of its members and action at such meetings shall be at the approval of a majority of those present. In the event of a tie vote the presiding officer shall cast the deciding vote.



10. Any action taken by the Board of Directors, other than meeting calls and appointments, shall be submitted at the next meeting of the society for approval.

11. The president shall appoint a nominating committee of three regular members other than officers or board members in advance of each annual meeting. This committee shall make its recommendations as to officers and directors in writing and submit these at the annual meeting. They shall nominate one person for each office. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the annual meeting. Election shall be by voice vote or ballot at the discretion of the chair.

12. The society at any meeting may elect persons long identified with Benton County history as honorary life members exempt from payment of dues.

13. Regular memberships in the society shall be \$3.00 per annum per family payable at time of membership application. A "family" shall be understood to mean and man and wife or other two persons residing at a single domicile.

14. The order of business at any meeting shall be:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (a) Reading and disposal of un-<br>approved minutes | (d) New business                            |
| (b) Report of treasurer                             | (e) Historical discussion and<br>fellowship |
| (c) Report of officers and commit-<br>tees          | (f) Date of next meeting                    |
|   | (g) Adjournment                             |

## ARTICLE II.

### Duties of Officers

1. The president shall preside at all meetings, sign or counter-sign all contracts or other instruments of the society and perform such duties as usually appertain to the office of president.

2. In the absence or disability of the president the 1st, 2nd or 3rd vice presidents, in the order named, shall exercise all of the functions of the president.

3. The secretary-treasurer shall keep minutes of all meetings, sign with the president such instruments or contracts as require official signature. He may sign checks in the ordinary disbursement of funds in amounts not in excess of \$50.00. In larger amounts he shall sign with the president or acting vice-president.

4. The secretary-treasurer shall have custody of all monies of the society, disburse monies in payment of current authorized expenses; shall keep regular account books and keep the society informed as to its financial standing, membership status and shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office or delegated to him from time to time.

## ARTICLE III

1. These by-laws may be amended, repealed or altered in whole or in part, by a majority vote of regular members at any meeting where such action has been announced at the previous meeting or in the call for a meeting.

ADOPTED by vote of the majority of members present at meeting held in Pea Ridge, Arkansas, on April 8, 1956.

Vera Key, President

Attested: Huey G. Huhn, Secretary

# President's Message

DEAR MEMBER:

We are pleased to report the addition of so many new members to the Benton County Historical Society. This gives us a nice bank balance for future publications of the PIONEER. Today our need is for your articles on some Benton County Historical fact or family history. Send us the story you have been intending to write. We are all amateur writers and do not expect classical stories.

This month of May, 1956, marks seventy five years since the first train came into Rogers. We are celebrating that event in August. Were you here when that first train came through? We would like to hear about the people who lived here May 10, 1881, and about the new neighbors who came later.

Sincerely yours,

VERA KEY